DAEMONOROPS MELANOCHAETES BLUME, A NEW RECORD OF RATTAN FOR BALI

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Himmah Rustiami. 2016. Daemonorops melanochaetes Blume, A New Record of Rattan for Bali. Floribunda 5(4): 126–128. — Daemonorops melanochaetes previously known to occur only in Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Java, is newly reported from montainous area of Bali. A complete description, notes and illustrations are presented.

Keywords: Daemonorops, new record, Bali.

Govaerts & Dransfield (2005) reported that Daemonorops melanochaetes Blume known to occur in Thailand, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Java. However, in a recent expedition in conjunction with The flora of Bali project launched by Herbarium Bogoriense since 2013, this species was found in Gunung Mesehe, the mountainous areas in the western part of Bali Island.

Identification key to Bali rattan
1. a. Inflorescence enclosed by the first bract, boat-shaped bracts ............................................. D. melanochaetes
   b. Inflorescence not enclosed by the first bract, distinctly tubular base bracts .................................. 2
2. a. Leaf sheaths very densely covered with whorls of broad-based laminar spines, ocrea present to 2.5 cm long, leaves cirrate .......................................................... C. parutan
   b. Leaf sheaths sparsely armed with yellowish spines, ocrea inconspicuous, leaves ecirrate .................. C. viminalis

Daemonorops melanochaetes Blume (Figure 1)


Clustering rattan, climbing up to 30 m high. Stem with sheath 6 cm in diam, without sheath 4 cm in diam. Leaf sheath armed with black, solid spines, up to 5 cm long, interspersed with short, green-chocolate tip spines. Internodes 30 cm long or less. Knee present, conspicuous. Leaves up to 330 cm long including petiole 20–35 cm long and cirrus up to 107 cm. Leaflets 77 on each side of the rachis, alternate, lanceolate, regularly arrange, 50 cm long and 3 cm wide; armed with smooth bristle on main vein and leaflets margin. Inflorescence branching, erect, sessile or peduncle short to 2 cm, up to 20 cm long, consist of 6 rachillae with 20–30 flower or fruit each. Prophyll enclosed all inflorescence, boat-shaped, brownish yellow, armed with blackish brown, densely spines; second bract surface smooth, shorter and boat-shaped. Fruit ovate, pendulous up to 4 mm long, covered with 7–8 scales
in vertical rows, yellowish, 2 cm in diam.
Distribution. Borneo (based on type locality only), Java, Lesser Sunda Island (Bali), Malay Peninsula, Sumatra.
Habitat and Ecology. *D. melanochaetes* is common in lowland rain forest areas often near sea (Dransfield et al. 2008). However from this field work this species can be found in the mountainous area around 600 m asl.
Uses. *D. melanochaetes* is commonly used as raw material for the manufacture of tables, chairs and household crafts, and its ripe fruits are edible (Harada et al. 2005). Young shoot has sweet taste and the local people around Gunung Mesehe usually eat it as vegetable.
Notes. *D. melanochaetes* collected from Bali, Java, Malay Peninsula and Sumatra shows large variation and differences. A collection from Malay Peninsula has hair on leaflets, but some collections from Sumatra and Java with scaly indumentum. Furthermore, prophyll vestiture has two types, velutinous and setose. The complexity of this species is in need of further study.
Spesimens examined. Bali, Bedugul, Eka Karya Botanic Garden, June 1973, Saleh Idris sn; Gunung Kelatakan, 18/7/1918, 560 m asl, Ekspedisi R Maier Sarip 97; NW of Bali, S Timah, June 1926, 200 m asl, Paardt No 26 Gunung Mesehe, 15/05/2013, Himmah Rustiami HR 1900, fruiting.

Figure 1. *D. melanochaetes* Blume (from HR 1900, deposited at BO).
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